

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed on April 5, 2006. Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 15-16, 23, 27-29, 31 and 33 are currently pending in this application, with claims 6, 15, 16, 23, 27, 28, 29, and 31 being independent. *No new matter has been added.*

Entry of amendment

This amendment *prima facie* places the case in condition for allowance. Alternatively, it places this case in better condition for appeal.

Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

Page 2 of the Office Action includes an objection to the drawings.

While not conceding the propriety of this objection and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 30 and 32 have been canceled.

Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

Page 5 of the Office Action indicates that claims 23 and 27-33 are allowed and that claims 6 and 15-16 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Appreciation is expressed for the indication that the claims contain allowable subject matter.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Page 3 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claims 6 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

While not conceding the propriety of these rejections and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, the claims have been amended.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Page 4 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claims 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Japanese Application Publication No. 07-037375 to Takahashi (JP 7-37375) in view of Japanese Application Publication No. 11-010660 to Nishiyama (JP 11-10660).

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

While not conceding the propriety of this objection and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 25 and 26 have been canceled.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

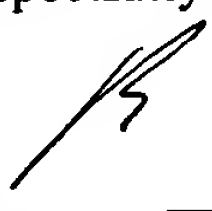
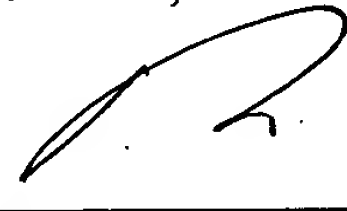
For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Dated: June 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By  

David T. Nikaido

Registration No.: 22,663

Brian K. Dutton

Registration No.: 47,255

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC

1233 20th Street, N.W.

Suite 501

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 955-3750

Attorneys for Applicant